



My Journey Illustrating GOODBYE, OLD HOUSE

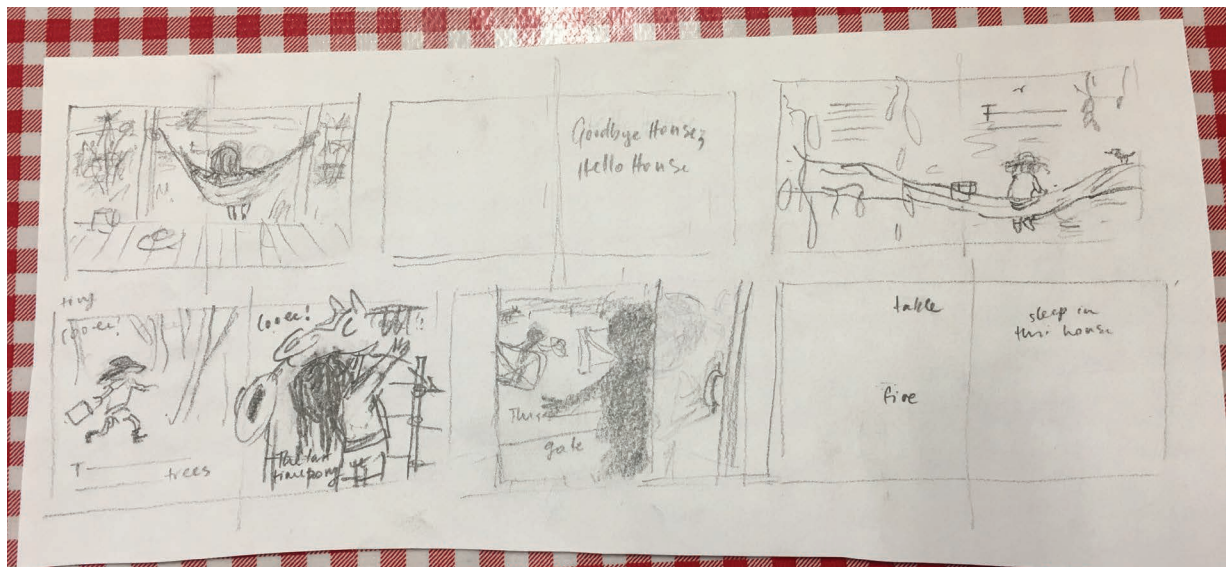
Ann James

Goodbye, Old House

Written by Margaret Wild, illustrated by Ann James,



Above: Early sketches including an experiment with cut-out figure on folded background.
Below: Segment of early storyboard with front endpapers, title and first 4 double spreads.





Early ideas and photo reference for the opening illustration of the story:
‘This is the last time I’ll fish in this river.’



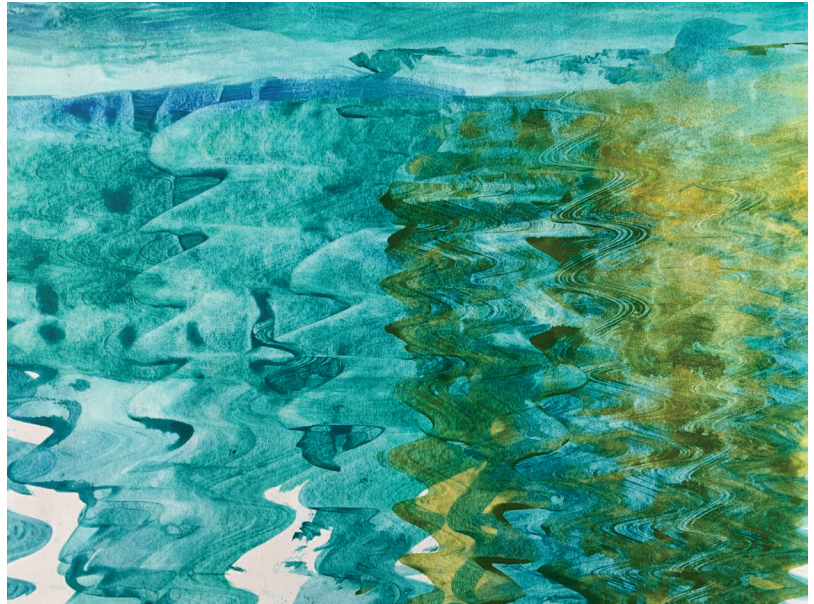


The idea of creating three dimensional illustrations really excited me.

I played about with cutting around drawings of Sam in doorways that could frame what they are seeing.

I first tried using magazine photographs behind the doorways and instantly liked the effect. Then I played around with taking my own photos to peep at through the doors.





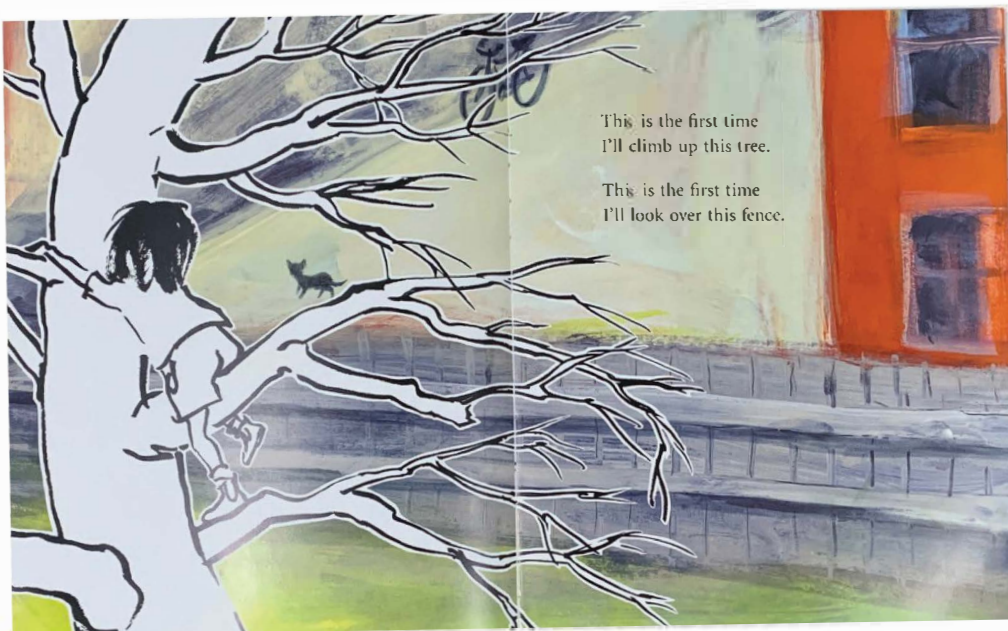
After drawing Sam using various sorts of pencils I decided to draw them with brush and black ink. It is bold and non-tonal, and the fluid line contrasts well with the painted backgrounds.

In most cases I drew them immediate props in ink also, like the branch they sit on or the pony they pat.

I eventually decided that paintings rather than photos would be best for the backgrounds. They relate emotionally with the drawings.

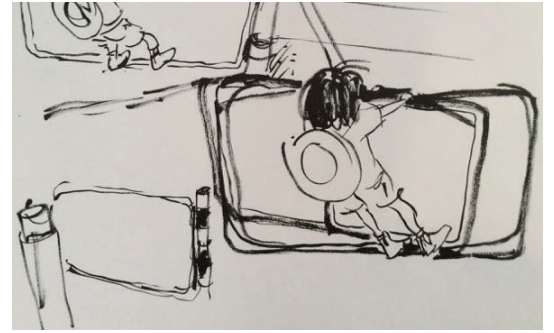
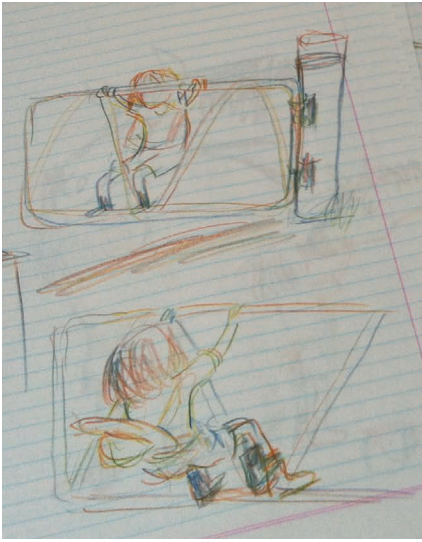
‘This is the last time I’ll fish in this river.’





This is the first time
I'll climb up this tree.

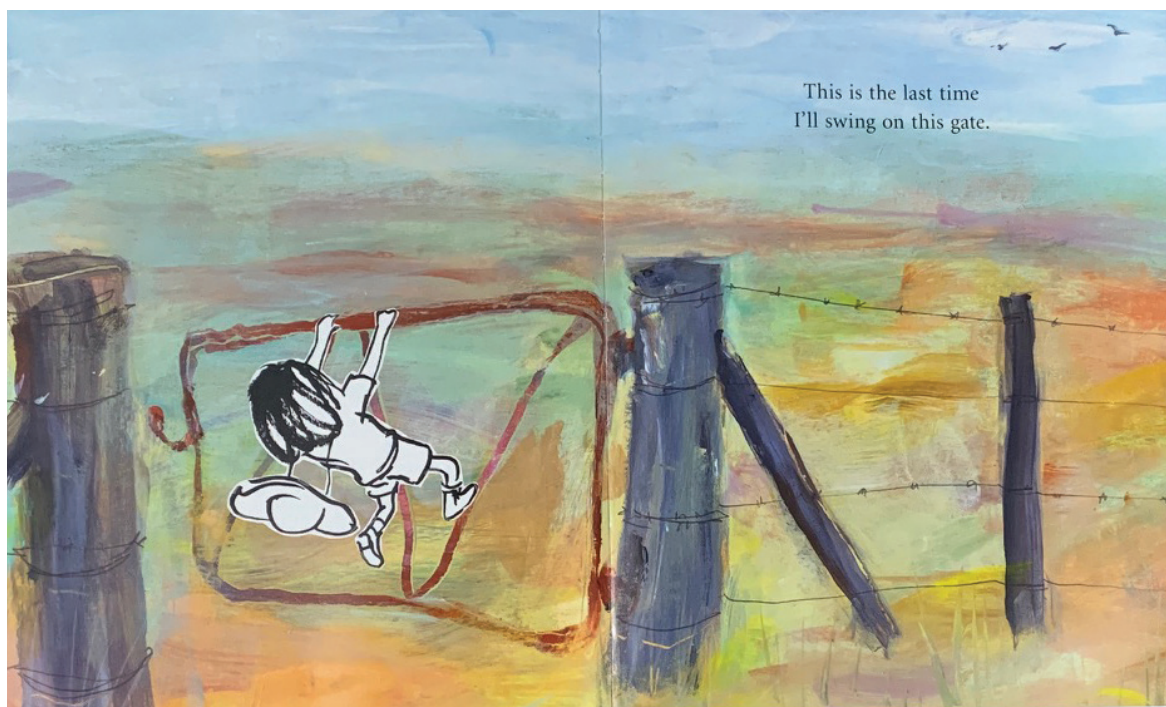
This is the first time
I'll look over this fence.



This is one of my favorite illustrations for this story.

I painted the landscape in layers of acrylic gouche with layers of some colors covering areas of others. It was a luscious experience.

The dark russet color of the gate was painted below the milkier greens and tans and, while they were still wet, I dragged the shape of the gate through them. The barbed wire of the fence was drawn last, in pencil.





This is Sam's last night and I would like readers to know they are taking it in gently. It's a special and beautiful moment to share with their toy joey and the moon.



This illustration was one of the most difficult for me to create for this story. It's an important one, the bridge between the old and new; the first part of the story and the next. I didn't want it to be sad or melancholy or dramatic. Sam is focused, aware of the moment and playful.

'Goodbye old house, goodbye.'

